Financial assistance for advanced scientific research

2001. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide financial assistance to the institutions, scientific institutions and universities for advanced scientific study and research in telecommunication technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such institutions, scientific institutions and universities, State-wise and the amount released to each of them;

(c) the findings/suggestions these institutions have submitted to Government during the last three years;

(d) whether Government have appointed any agency for monitoring such institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Restructuring of private deemed universities

2002. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private deemed universities have demanded an increase in NRI quota to 15 per cent, autonomy to decide fee and seat structure, allowing more than 54 per cent increase in seats and not enforcing admission criteria for students from the weaker section;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some universities have also demanded Government to compensate for rebate envisaged for students from weaker section to prevent general category students paying higher fees; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As part of the process of formulating a policy of reservation in unaided private educational institutions, the Government has been consulting various stakeholders including

representatives of such unaided educational institutions. Suggestions received would form input to a suitable legislative proposal as and when it is finalized.

Out of school Muslim children

2003. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study by UNESCO, 13.5 million children in the age group of 6-13 years in the country are out of school with Muslims being the most affected section of the society;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Social and Rural Research Institute commissioned to estimate and classify those children who were out of schools on the basis of gender and social category has reported that school drop-out rate is highest among the Muslims in India; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to minimize the drop-out rate of school children especially Muslim children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) UNESCO, in its Education for All Global Monitoring Report-2007, has referred to a Nation-wide Sample Survey on out of school children conducted by the Social and Rural Research Institute in 2005. This Nationwide Sample Survey was commissioned by the Government of India under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Referring to this Survey, the Report says that the number of out of school children has halved from 25 million in 2002 to 13.5 million in 2005. This Report also notes that the variations by social group were much larger than those by gender or place of residence: the out-of-school rates were 10.0% for Muslims, 9.5 for scheduled tribes, 8.2% for scheduled castes, 6.9% for other backward castes and 3.7% for the remaining social groups.

(c) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing drop-out rates. One set of interventions relates to strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, several interventions under SSA also aim at community support,